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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2002      LB 384

surprise me, but in order to get it at a reasonable cost we need to hook...be able to hook up to the municipalities, the cities out there, that don't have natural gas that do want it, and we'll have to see. But...and also I think we might be overstating a little bit about a nuclear bomb. I'm pretty sure Senator Quandahl doesn't have any permit to be carrying around a nuclear bomb here. This is not a nuclear bomb type of bill, I don't think. It simply protects the citizens from taking over a gas system that shouldn't be taken over, but I look at the balance this bill provides. Right now there are people out there, and I didn't realize that some condemnation proceedings have been as recent Wahoo's in November of '99. I thought most of them were back in the early nineties, late eighties, but there has been Wahoo's, Senator Bromm told me, in November of '99. So this is an ongoing process and if I get to speak again some place on this bill this morning I'll bring forth a letter from a League of Municipalities member stating some things that they encourage this particular city to do, and this is not a small town. I guess maybe it is a small town to someone representing Omaha or Lincoln, but a city manager out there said, well, this is what they encourage us to do, and it concerns me. But I think this bill provides a balance of safety, service and so on...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...and costs. The people need this. I think if we had it in place perhaps there still could be some condemnations out there and well-justified. If there's a safety issue or a service issue or a cost issue that they can't resolve, so be it. Go ahead and get the...follow the process have the city resolution, condemn it, proceed down with the court of condemnation, the costs and what it's going to do, and vote on it. I don't have a problem with that. This doesn't prohibit any of that. It's simply saying here's the process you're going to follow if that's what you want to do, and let the citizens decide. Back to the bracket motion, I definitely oppose it. We need to keep this thing moving. I'm sorry that Norfolk and Senator Tyson feels left out on this. They need to work with people instead of sending letters out that's really not very complimentary and that show a lack of understanding of